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The Illinois State Partnership Program (SPP) with Poland began in 1993 and has allowed hundreds of Illinois National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to participate in exchanges with Polish Forces. Beginning in 2003, Illinois service members have also participated in cooperative efforts with Polish Forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. There have been numerous military exchanges to include; C-130 maintenance program exchanges, reserve force information exchanges, and many other nation building events in which the ILNG has been involved. More recently, the ILNG has begun to increase the amount of Military to Civilian and Civilian to Civilian cooperation and will be hosting various Polish Agencies during the 2010 Prairie North Exercise in June. SPP conducted 29 events with Poland in 2009 and in this issue you will find stories of some of those events from May through September 2009.



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SPP Fact: Since 1993, there have been over 300 military exchanges between Poland and Illinois.



Recent Events with Poland

Government of Poland Delegation Visit

Sirens going off. People running and screaming in complete chaos. You don't know what is going on, but you do know someone has a gun because you heard shots fired. There are people in uniforms running toward the chaos. Domestic incidents can happen anytime, anywhere. Whether it is a terrorist attack, natural



disaster or man-made disaster. That is why it is especially important for the Illinois National Guard to train with its state partnering country, Poland, on domestic response. From May 25 through June 3, 11 distinguished members from Poland traveled to Illinois to observe how the state responds to domestic incidents.

The Illinois National Guard worked closely with Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to coordinate a variety of presentations and a full-scale exercise, Prairie Plague, for the Polish to observe. All of the delegates are members in agencies who would be a first responder during an incident in Poland.

On May 27, the Polish traveled to Western Illinois University (WIU) in Macomb, to observe the start of the three-day exercise. The interagency exercise focused on field-level and hospital response to a shooter on the WIU campus. Agencies used simulated weapons and ammunition to make the exercise as close to real as possible. "This exercise wasn't meant to see the tactical side, but how all the various agencies respond together," said Waldemar Zubrzycki, Police Captain, Director of Anti-Terrorism/Crisis Management Taskforce. "One thing we did realize is the scale of the exercise, how many players and agencies were involved. This type of exercise involved all players and agencies in reaction to a real-life scenario." The Polish observed first responders reacting to hearing gun shots in an auditorium sized classroom, and calling for the appropriate back up. Zubrzycki said they had "very good" communication throughout the exercise between the different agencies.

The first responders worked together to capture all the shooters and gather information on what their intent was. "All participating agencies walked away with new lessons learned," said Illinois Army National Guard Capt. Greg Hertz, doctrine training force development officer, including "procedure validation and a better understanding of what their state partners' role is in disaster response."

Almost 100 miles away, this exercise continued May 29 in Lincoln, where there was a connection to the shooter at WIU trying to obtain a biological weapon from a lab. There were multiple state and federal agencies in response to the lab manufacturing biological weapons for this exercise. The Illinois State Police used its State Tactical Response Team to enter the building by breaching a door to neutralize the threats in the lab. Inside were two members of the Illinois Air National Guard 183rd Security Forces Squadron, based in Springfield, playing the masterminds behind creating the biological weapons in the lab.

The Illinois Army and Air National Guard were also there playing the opposing forces, making it more difficult for the agencies to stop the people in the lab. "That is what exercising is all about, the opportunity to enhance those skill sets that facilitate emergency responses," said Hertz. "Beyond that, Prairie Plague afforded one Polish counterpart the opportunity to see first hand the state of Illinois and the Illinois National Guard's emergency response models. "The Illinois Department of Military Affairs provided air surveillance with its Service and Support unit based in Decatur. Detection and presumptuous identification of substances within the biological production lab was completed by the Illinois National Guard's 5th Civil Support Team from Bartonville. "We are extremely pleased with the conduct and outcomes of this exercise" said Hertz.



Recent Events with Poland



Czestochowa Pilgrimage



Imagine walking from Peoria to Aurora. In August, eight Illinois National Guard members did just that, except in a foreign country, Poland. Six Soldiers and two Airmen walked 137 miles, beginning in Warsaw and ending in Czestochowa, in 10 days for the annual Polish pilgrimage. The Illinois guardsmen walked with a group of approximately 300 people that included Polish, German and Slovakian Soldiers.

Every year thousands of Catholics from around the world go to Poland to participate in the ceremonial walk to Jasna Gora monastery in Czestochowa, the site of the revered Black Madonna icon. Their journey began with an early morning mass at the field cathedral of the Polish Army. Every day the group attended mass regardless of their various faiths and beliefs.

During the 12-hour walk each day, they were treated with prayers, songs and sermons in German, Polish, Italian and English broadcasted through large speakers carried by participants. Local civilians provided pilgrimage participants with food, refreshments and encouragement along the route. Every night the Illinois guardsmen slept in tents provided by the Polish Armed Forces.

"I was told numerous times by Polish Soldiers that they got a kick out of the fact that the German Soldiers and American Soldiers were communicating to each other through their Polish translators," said Sgt. David Sworobowicz, of Springfield, Illinois Army National Guard. Local farmers stood along the route and handed out their fruit and vegetables to everyone walking in the pilgrimage. The cities also worked together to offer soups and bread for lunch everyday. The other breaks they had throughout the day were at numerous churches. "The civilians' generosity along the way is unmatched," said 2nd Lt. Veronica Kool, of Springfield, Illinois Army National Guard. "All along the route, the Polish stood waiting outside their homes offering whatever food they had to give. "The religious experience gained from this exercise is above and beyond rewarding," said Sworobowicz. "I can only hope to do it again sometime." The trip ended at Jasna Gora monastery in Czestochowa with the military pilgrimage walking the last half mile or so through thousands of supportive spectators that waved, shook their hands, gave hugs and took pictures of the group.



"It is not everyday that you get to travel overseas for a friendly noncombative operation," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Dugena, of Gilberts, Illinois Army National Guard. "From the arrival in Poland, the Polish Army were incredible hosts making sure we had everything we needed." Illinois guardsmen participated in the pilgrimage to commemorate the 1655 Polish victory over Sweden and to build a stronger relationship with the Polish. The National Guard sponsored State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Illinois National



Guard and Republic of Poland was established in 1993. The SPP links National Guard states and territories with their partner countries to foster mutual interests and establishing long-term relationships across all levels of society. Through the SPP, Illinois Army and Air National Guard service members have participated in annual, joint training exchanges with military forces of the Republic of Poland.

"Their professionalism and maturity are what I desire in every group of guardsmen who come to Poland," said Maj. James Fisher, Bilateral Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Warsaw. "They promoted the State Partnership Program with flying colors and are model diplomats of our country."



Recent Events with Poland

Police Mentor Team Information Exchange



In early September, 5 members of the 9-33 MP Company deployed in support of an SPP information exchange with Polish Police Mentor Teams (PMT's). The PMT mission served as a great exchange of information between the Military Police of the Illinois National Guard, and Poland. The flow and exchange of information between both forces will enhance the Polish PMT Team's upcoming mission to Afghanistan. The U.S. forces provided our knowledge and expertise to assist the Polish while observing their training in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The U.S. soldiers observed the Polish MP's training on Checkpoints, Convoy exercises, marksmanship, MOUT, reacting to enemy contact, and Counter-IED training. The 9-33 MP's were able to offer our advice, lessons learned, and TTP's while drawing from their experiences overseas to help enhance the Polish PMT training.



Office Call with Ambassador Feinstein

On September 21st, 2009, The Adjutant General, MG William Enyart, traveled to the State Department in Washington D.C to brief the new Ambassador to the Republic of Poland. The Honorable Lee Feinstein was nominated by President Obama to serve as the 25th Ambassador to Poland. MG Enyart's brief to Ambassador Feinstein about the Illinois National Guard State Partnership Program included:

- History and Overview of SPP
- Recent Accomplishments of the Mil to Mil Program
- The Co-Deployment between ILNG and PLF to Afghanistan
- The SPP Campaign Plan and how it supports Poland
- Recent and Proposed Mil to Civ and Civ to Civ Events



SPP is an essential tool in the Ambassador's strategic kit to accomplish the State Department and COCOM Commanders objectives for the Country Campaign Plan. The meeting was interactive and Mr. Feinstein and MG Enyart conducted an open exchange of ideas on strategic communication and how SPP can play a vital role in the continuing to foster the relationship between Poland and the United States.

Recent Events with Poland



ISP Planning Conference with Bureau of Anti Terrorism



From 22-25 Sep, 2009, The Illinois State Police Tactical Response Team traveled to Poland to conduct an initial planning conference with the Polish Bureau of Anti Terrorist Operations (BOA). The Illinois State Police were invited to Poland by the Director of BOA as a result of the relationships that were formed during their visit to Illinois earlier this year. The focus of the visit was planning for ongoing informational and training exchanges between the Illinois State Police and BOA. As a staunch ally and supporter in the Global War on Terrorism, Poland, like many of our Allies in Europe, are susceptible to attacks from terrorist organizations. Through the Illinois National Guard State Partnership Program, and interagency cooperation with the Illinois State Police, we're able to share information, tactics, techniques, and procedures with Poland Bureau of Anti Terrorism to further increase the Homeland Security Posture of both nations.



The Initial Planning Conference Included:
Display of individual and team equipment
Close Quarter Battle,
Linear Assaults and Tactical Rappelling
Exchange of Tactics and Techniques
Sniper/Observer Standards and Qualification



2009 IEMA Conference

From 8-10 September, JFHQ-IL SPP hosted Deputy Director Gula and a small delegation from Polish Government Security Bureau and other Polish Disaster Management agencies at the 2009 IEMA Conference. In addition the delegation was briefed and given AAR's from the Chief Responder during the September 11th attacks on the Pentagon and the Greensburg, KS Tornado. This event furthered strengthened the relationships between IL and Poland Emergency Managers and provided segway into upcoming exercises like Vigilant Guard and EUROcup.



During the conference the delegation participated in various working group break out sessions to include:

- Senior Officials Workshops
- Awareness and Response to Biological Events
 - Emergency Management Best Practices
 - Elected Officials Relationships
- Cyber Security Awareness and Best Practices



SPP COORDINATOR'S CORNER



When I enlisted in the Army almost 13 years ago, I never thought that I would be involved with a National Guard program that partnered Illinois with the Republic of Poland...then again, since September 11th, I've done a lot of things and been a lot of places that I never thought I would. The State Partnership Program has given me visibility on parts of our Army and our Government that I've never been exposed to and not only am I amazed by the efforts and success of this program, but I'm also very proud to be a part of it. As this is our first issue, I think it's important for me to share with the readers my role as the SPP Coordinator. SPP has three avenues of approach. We conduct events in the Mil-Mil, Mil-Civ, and Civ-Civ categories. These events are created based upon guidance that we receive from the Ambassador, the Commander of EU-COM, the National Guard Bureau, and The Adjutant General of Illinois. It's my job to create a five year campaign plan, based on funding streams from both NGB and EUCOM, that allow us to execute various events within those avenues of approach. For example; recently the Polish Military Gendarmerie (Military Police) have been tasked with creating a Police Mentor Team in the Ghazni Province in Afghanistan. Through the State Partnership Program they've asked for our assistance in assisting their soldiers prior to deploying. It's my job as the coordinator to utilize assets in the Illinois National Guard to assist Poland in these efforts, as they are an invaluable asset and ally in the War on Terror. Our program also assists the Polish Land Forces in their transformation from a conscript Army to an all volunteer force. We utilize teams from the 129th RTI that provide Non Commissioned Officer and Officer development training to the professional NCO and Officer Corps of the Polish Army. This program also capitalizes on the relationships between the ILNG and various State agencies to further bolster the homeland security posture for both nations. We also plan and execute events that allow organizations like the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Polish Government Security Bureau to share best practices, lesson's learned, and joint participation in training exercises so that both nations can learn from one another the most effective ways to plan for and respond to natural and man made disasters. This program has developed into a strategic tool for both the United States and Poland to achieve continuous improvement in all their efforts. I look forward to working with the rest of the team in the ILNG as we propel this program to the top ranked State Partnership in the Nation.

BAO'S CORNER



Since October 2007, I have been posted at the United States Embassy Warsaw, Poland as the Bilateral Affairs Officer. The position is bilateral due to the nature of the daily contact with our ally, the Republic of Poland's military and civilian agencies. Our mission as the Illinois National Guard in conjunction with other Department of Defense entities is to enhance the capabilities of Poland's small unit and headquarter organizations to deter, react and respond to natural and man-made crisis events. As the Bilateral Affairs Officer my job is to synchronize events by referencing the three U.S. Government planning documents as follow. The **U.S. Embassy Mission Strategic Plan** highlights goals the Department of State has set forth for Executive Branch Agencies in regards to assisting to Poland with military and civilian cooperation. The **United States European Command's Country Campaign**

Plan details military lines of effort to specific tasks utilizing U.S. military forces within the European Theater and the Illinois National Guard. The **Illinois National Guard's Five Year Campaign Plan** provides a long-term strategic event based framework that utilizes unique niche capabilities a Citizen Soldier organization provides to the military-to-civilian cooperation venue. During the January –March 2010 timeframe, we plan our future Fiscal Year events and the future looks busy. Since 2008, our United States European Command (USEUCOM) Military-to-Military (M2M) program has grown in relative terms of total events and cost. For example, the M2M Fiscal Year 2010 event program for the Polish Military has over a budget of over \$525, 000. The State Partnership Program provides forces from the Illinois Air and Army National Guard to be instructors for such M2M events. Normally, over one-quarter of the M2M events are conducted by ILNG personnel. Since Poland's accession into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999, our military events have sought to improve the inter-operability of Polish military forces that will be conducting multinational missions. We continue to promote this goal by utilizing forces from the Illinois Army and Air National Guard before, during and after the Republic of Poland deploys forces to overseas contingency areas. The Illinois Army National Guard has supported the Polish Land Forces by providing embedded subject matter experts within Polish Military Contingents since 2003. Our military event focus since Fiscal Year 2008 has been to specifically assist Polish Military Contingent forces with their deployments to the Southwest Asia region. Our civilian focus has been to plan and conduct consequence management focused bilateral events that will assist the Polish Military of Interior and Administration with the 2012 EUROcup games. Our continued hard work highlights the commitment to our ally's well being. I look forward to the future and want to thank my brethren in advance for their assistance, patience and willingness to share their lessons learned with our counterparts within the military and government of Poland.

WIADOMOSCI NEWS IN POLAND



Krakow Post

New Warsaw Express

Poland Monthly

Polish Chicago News

Polish Market Review

Warsaw Insider

POLISH PHRASES

English	Polish	Pronunciation
Yes	Tak	<i>Tak</i>
No	Nie	<i>Nye</i>
Please	Prosze	<i>Prosh^heh</i>
Thank You	Dziekuje	<i>Jen-kooya</i>
Good Morning/ Afternoon	Dzien Dobry	<i>Gene-dobri</i>
Beer	Piewo	<i>Peevo</i>



10 FACTS ABOUT POLAND

1. The population of Poland is 39 million.
2. The six biggest cities in Poland are Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow, Wroclaw, Poznan, and Gdansk
3. The highest point in Poland is Rysy in the Tatra Mountains (2,499m)
4. The coldest part of Poland is in the North-East and the warmest is in the South-west.
5. The most popular name for a dog in Poland is Burek (meaning a brownish-grey color)!
6. Poland is the ninth largest country in Europe and it shares frontiers with seven countries: Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Germany.
7. Poland's capitals have been Gniezno, Poznan, Krakow and Warsaw. Lublin has twice served as Poland's temporary capital, after both the First and Second World Wars.
8. Geographically, Poland is not in Eastern Europe. It is in the very centre of Europe.
9. In Poland, some Poles consider their name day (*in Polish: "imieniny"*) more important than their birthdays. People with the same name day celebrate on the same day each year.
10. The national symbol of Poland is the White tailed **Eagle**.

